

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----024374 121856Z /41

R 121840Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11520

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GW, PL
SUBJECT: BRANDT VISIT TO POLAND

SUMMARY: FORMER CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT WAS CORDIALLY
RECEIVED IN POLAND DURING HIS FOUR DAY VISIT JUNE 28 -
JULY 1. HIS CONVERSATION PARTNERS GIEREK AND BABUICH
CRITICIZED THE FRG'S REFERENCE TO IMMIGRANTS FROM
POLAND AS "EXPELLEES." BRANDT DEFENDED THE FRG'S
CONTINUED USE OF TRADITIONAL NAMES FOR FORMER GERMAN
CITIES IN POLAND. END SUMMARY.

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1. MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI OF THE CHANCELLERY
HAS GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR A SUMMARY BRIEFING ON WILLY
BRANDT'S RECENT VISIT TO POLAND (JUNE 28-JULY 1).
WISCHNEWSKI ACCOMPANIED THE SPD CHAIRMAN AND FORMER
CHANCELLOR ON HIS TRIP.

2. ACCORDING TO WISCHNEWSKI, BRANDT AND HIS SPD

DELEGATION WERE RECEIVED WITH GREAT HOSPITALITY BY THE POLES. THERE WERE NUMEROUS SIGNS OF PERSONAL COURTESY AND PARTICULAR WARMTH TOWARD BRANDT, WHO HAD CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF MANY POLES WITH HIS SYMBOLIC GESTURES IN 1970. AT TIMES PUBLIC REACTION WAS SO FORTHCOMING IT WAS ALMOST EMBARRASSING TO HIS POLISH HOSTS.

3. WISCHNEWSKI SAID BRANDT HAD HAD SOME VERY GOOD TALKS WITH GIEREK AND BABUICH. THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A CONVERSATION WITH CC-PZPR SECRETARY STEFAN OLSZOWSKI WHO, IN WISCHNEWSKI'S OPINION, SEEMED TO BE CAPABLE AND WELL INFORMED ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES.

5. WISCHNEWSKI SAID THAT FEW PROBLEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING:

-- DESIGNATION OF POLISH EMIGRES FROM POLAND TO THE FRG. FRG PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO DOCUMENT PERSONS OF GERMAN ORIGIN LEAVING POLAND FOR REUNIFICATION WITH RELATIVES IN THE FRG AS "EXPELLEES" (VERTRIEBENEN). UNDER THIS DESIGNATION THESE PERSONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FRG ASSISTANCE DURING THEIR RESETTLEMENT PERIOD. THE POLES HAVE OBJECTED TO THIS, CLAIMING THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT EXPELLEES AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE GIVEN ANOTHER DESIGNATION. (COMMENT: THE FRG HAS AGREED
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TO THIS IN PRINCIPLE; DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING ON EXACTLY WHAT TERM TO USE. END
COMMENT.)

-- CONTINUED FRG USE OF TRADITIONAL GERMAN NAMES FOR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11520

FORMER GERMAN CITIES. REGARDING POLISH OBJECTIONS TO
CONTINUED USE OF GERMAN NAMES FOR PLACES IN WHAT IS NOW
POLAND, THE FRG SIDE DEFENDED ITS POSITION AS BASED ON
VALID HISTORICAL GROUNDS. CONTRARY TO POLISH CLAIMS,
THIS DID NOT REPRESENT ANY GERMAN REVANCHIST
TENDENCIES. BRANDT EXPLAINED FRG POLICY THAT POLISH
NAMES WOULD BE USED IN CASES WHERE NAMES HAD BEEN
ALTERED UNDER THE THIRD REICH.

6. WISCHNEWSKI SAID THAT AFTER ONE OF THE MANY DINNERS
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HE HAD TALKED AT LENGTH WITH BABUICH ABOUT THE DISSIDENT
PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH BABUICH DOWNPLAYED THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF ANY DISSIDENTS IN POLAND -- IN BABUICH'S VIEW, THERE
WAS ONLY A HANDFUL OF ACTIVE DISSIDENTS SUPPORTED BY
APPROXIMATELY 1,000 OTHERS -- THE ATTENTION DEVOTED BY
BABUICH TO THE SUBJECT SEEMED, IN WISCHNEWSKI'S VIEW,
TO REVEAL REAL CONCERN.

7. WISCHNEWSKI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THE FRG DELEGATION
HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT GIEREK IS MORE NERVOUS AND
UNCERTAIN THAN HE HAD BEEN IN THE PAST. THE ECONOMIC
SITUATION IN POLAND POSES MANY PROBLEMS AND THERE
SEEMS TO BE CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT OPPOSITION
BY INTELLECTUALS. HE ALSO NOTED THE CONTINUING

STRENGTH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN POLAND AND CALLED
CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI A WISE MAN WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO
USE HIS INFLUENCE TO MODERATE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE REGIME AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS.

8. COMMENT: PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, BRANDT MADE MUCH
OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS GOING TO POLAND, NOT AS A
NEGOTIATOR, BUT AS A PARTY LEADER OUT TO INFORM HIMSELF.
FROM WISCHNEWSKI'S REMARKS, IT DOES APPEAR THIS VISIT
WAS MORE FORM THAN SUBSTANCE. WE CAN EXPECT MORE OF A
SUBSTANTIVE NATURE WHEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT VISITS
WARSAW IN SEPTEMBER. END COMMENT.
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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, OVIP, GE, PL, (BRANDT, WILLY)
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